

DIXIE TRANSPORTATION EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (DTEC)
MINUTES
June 16, 2010

PRESENT

Jim Eardley, Chair, Washington County Commission
Tom Hirschi, Mayor of Hurricane
Karl Wilson, Mayor of LaVerkin
Hyrum Lefler, Mayor of Leeds
Darren LeFevre, Mayor of Toquerville
Jerry Lewis, UDOT Commissioner
Lowell Elmer, MPO Director
Myron Lee, DMPO Planning Manager
Nathan Lee, UDOT
Curt Hutchings, Dixie MPO
Steve Call, FHWA
Darren Cottam, Toquerville
Gil Almquist, St. George City Council
Marreen Casper, Congressional Aide, Orrin Hatch
Mike Empey, Congressional Aide, Jim Matheson
Larry Bulloch, St. George City Public Works Director
Roger Bundy, Washington City Council
Dean Cox, Washington County Administrator
Ron Whitehead, Washington County Public Works Director
Christine Hall, Washington County Commission

ABSENT

Ken Sizemore, Five County AOG
Bruce Fishburn, Stanley Consultants
Bob Lamoreaux, Stanley Consultants
Chris Hart, Ivins City Mayor
Matt Ence, Santa Clara City Council
Monty Thurber, Engineering Associate, St. George City
Troy Torgersen, UDOT
Dan McArthur, St. George City Mayor
Cameron Cutler, Assistant City Engineer, St. George City
Bryan Thiriot, Congressional Aide, Robert Bennett
Ross Romero, Washington City
Wally Ritchie, Santa Clara City Manager
David Glenn, Ivins City
Jerry Blair, Ivins City Council
Bill Swenson, St. George City

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Eardley called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

SPECIAL STIP PRESENTATION TO RPO AND MPO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES / Nathan Lee

Nathan Lee with UDOT narrated the STIP PowerPoint in lieu of Rick Torgerson, who could not attend today. A copy of the PowerPoint is available from Nathan or at the Office of the Washington County Commission. Important points included:

- The acronym %STIP+stands for Statewide Transportation Improvement Program
- The Advisory Committee reviewed this information and decided to present it to the Executive Committee to inform it about what types of funding are available statewide, answer any questions, etc.
- It is a 6-year detailed project of budgets and programs for highway and transit
- The creation of the STIP begins with ideas from regional workshops, pavement preservation committees, traffic and safety divisions, bridge groups, traffic operations centers, transit groups (MPOs and RPOs)
- All of this data is fed into a workshop conducted by the State Transportation Commission (Commissioner Lewis is this group's representative on that body) which just met in April
- All information is prepared to be disseminated for public comment in a draft STIP that goes out in June
- The Commission meets again next week in Vernal to make recommendations on the draft STIP; it reconvenes again in August to review any public comments and review the STIP for final form
- The final approval occurs in October when the funds become available
- The cycle repeats itself in January, when workshops begin at which new projects lists are compiled

Within UDOT there are four strategic goals:

1. Maintain all current systems (signal, highway, port-of-entry, etc.);
2. Make those systems work better;
3. Improve safety; and
4. Increase capacity.

Funding:

1. Federal Transportation Fund: these are federal dollars received, for which a state match is required (the percentage is variable)
2. Centennial Highway Fund: created in 1998 (rebuild of Exit 10, new Exit 13 are both CHF projects)
3. Critical Highway Needs Fund (CHNEF): also created in 1998 (Southern Parkway, new interchange at Dixie Drive)
4. Transportation Investment Fund: (1998) funded through the vehicle tax that is in place (infrastructure improvements)
5. ARRA projects (1998); (stimulus projects)

All of the above programs are ending or will end soon, and the revenues from the state have dropped. Funding will be possible in the future only through bonding, unless the economy rebounds.

MINUTES

Motion: Commissioner Lewis made a motion to accept the Minutes of May 19, 2010, as submitted.
Second: Myron Lee seconded the motion.
Vote: All voted ~~aye~~,+and the motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

Draft TIP Approval to Move into 30-day Public Comment Period beginning 7/1/10 / Myron Lee

Myron distributed the document entitled ~~2011-15~~ Dixie TIP Programming, March 3, 2011,+ and said that this draft TIP has been reviewed by the Technical Advisory Committee, which has recommended approval by this body prior to being available for public comment. Lowell said that changes will undoubtedly be made in August by the Advisory Committee, at which point it will be re-submitted to this group for adoption.

Motion: Roger Bundy made a motion to Approve the Draft TIP for Advancement into the Required 30-day Public Comment Period from 7/1/10 to 7/31/10
Second: Commissioner Lewis seconded the motion.
Vote: All voted ~~aye~~,+and the motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

No further items were presented.

BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) Presentation / Diego Carroll

Myron said that Mr. Carroll, a consultant with AECOM, has just finished up a bus rapid transit (BRT) study concerning a proposed route between St. George and the new airport and one between St. George and Hurricane. The consensus is that ultimately it is advantageous for Washington County to implement a BRT system. Mr. Carroll passed out copies of his PowerPoint, which was presented to DTAC on June 2nd and adopted by that committee.

BRT is similar to light rail but runs on rubber-tired buses rather than on rails, either alongside other traffic or in designated lanes. Average speed of the buses is 20 mph. Typically, these systems provide service every fifteen minutes and hold more passengers than regular buses. Benefits are flexibility and reliability. They provide the ability to transition into a light-rail system.

AECOM evaluated several alignments and corridors from St. George to Hurricane and from St. George to the new airport and projected 7,250 riders per day for the year 2035 for the first route and about 4,000 riders per day for the second (airport) route. This volume would be sufficient to justify BRT but not for exclusive lanes. AECOM's recommendation is that a modest local BRT system is justifiable for St. George to Hurricane today, perhaps one that runs every 60 minutes. Mayor Wilson asked whether an expanded study had been done with respect to Zion National Park, and Mr. Carroll said his office is still working on it; a progress report has been submitted to Curt Hutchings.

UDOT/FHWA BUSINESS / Steve Call

Mr. Steve Call from the Federal Highway Administration (FHA) said that his office reviews the STIP, generates funding for the projects, approves the workflows, etc. He tries to attend these meetings as often as he can and appreciates the opportunity to work with this group. Mr. Call said that in the federal government there are three agencies that work together to review the livability and sustainability of communities and to fund projects: the EPA, HUD, and DOT. They also consider air quality issues and are currently reviewing ozone standards. Ron Whitehead, Public Works Director of Washington County, asked about funding for ozone monitoring stations, and Mr. Call said that there is no funding for those stations in this county because the county does not currently have a non-attainment status.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Eardley mentioned that traditionally there is no DTEC meeting in the month of

July. Therefore, the next scheduled meeting is **August 18, 2010.**

Having no other business, Chairman Eardley adjourned the meeting at 1:25 p.m.